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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for the freedom we enjoy. Thank You for freedom of the press, speech, religion, assembly, and petition. Thank You also for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Lord, today, bless the Senate and our Nation. Deliver us from internal and external forces that seek to destroy our liberty. Give the Senators strength and wisdom. Help them to remember Your promise to keep them from temptation and to deliver them from evil. Remind them that they face no test that You cannot help them pass. Let this Nation be a tool for the fulfillment of Your purposes on Earth. Lord, let Your kingdom come, let your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, following any time used by the leaders, there will be a 60-minute period of morning business. The majority will control the first half hour and the Republicans will control the second half hour.

Following this period of morning business, we will resume consideration of the immigration legislation. The next amendment to be offered this morning will come from the Republican side. Yesterday, I announced that the next Democratic amendment will be that of Senator BINGAMAN relating to the guest worker program.

Members can expect votes throughout the session today on the immigration bill.

Also, I had a meeting with Senator KENNEDY this morning. He indicated he would like to work into the evening on amendments. So Senators should plan to be here until at least 8 o'clock tonight with votes.

We are making progress on the supplemental. It is not done yet, but we are very close.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I cannot let the day go by without at least acknowledging a conversation I had yesterday afternoon with the father of another fallen soldier from Nevada. We lost two in 1 week. His boy just turned 19. I talked to his dad who was very sad.

I listened to the news this morning, and nine American soldiers were killed yesterday in Iraq. So we are going to continue doing what we can to have the President change course in Iraq. The present course is not working. We need a plan to bring our soldiers home.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, the time to be equally divided, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority and second half of the time under the control of the Republicans.

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, on Tuesday, I came to the Senate floor to present ideas on health care reform, particularly on the problem of fixing the internal operations of our broken health care system so that it runs better, at less cost, and with improved care.

I suggested that three fundamental things are wrong with our health care

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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